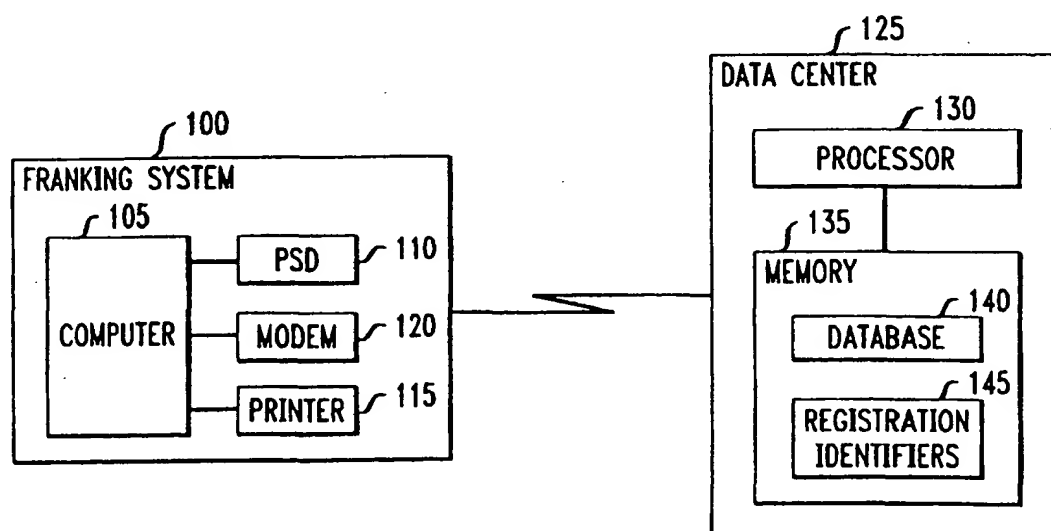




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(54) Title: TECHNIQUE FOR SECURING A SYSTEM CONFIGURATION OF A POSTAGE FRANKING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

In a franking system a postal security device (PSD) tracks a postage fund for dispensing postal indicia and enforce the configuration of the franking system. An authorization code, which is particular to the system, is used to verify the system configuration. An unauthorized change in the system configuration causes invalidation of the code and generation of the postal indicia is denied. Data center (125) records configuration information of each franking system (100). The data center generates a valid authorization code for verification in the franking system based on new configuration information. Components added to the system must be preapproved to prevent fraudulent generation of postage indicia. A registration number is assigned to each preapproved component which is necessary for interaction with the franking system.